

habits have failed, notwithstanding what has been said and written to the contrary. I defy any one to show a Turkey, even of the first generation, produced from a pair hatched from the eggs of a wild hen. We have every year in our markets offered for sale, birds of a very dark color, and in some degree resembling the wild species: but in every instance by the presence of the palcar, the imposition can be detected at first sight and the cheat exposed. I have known the eggs found in the woods hatched by a domestic hen, the chickens brought up carefully, and rendered so tame and familiar as to eat out of the hand, and to shew considerable pleasure whenever persons with whom they were acquainted approached them. Yet they never would associate with the domestic turkies, studiously avoiding their company, and in little more than a year running off to the woods, and never again returning to the haunts of their infancy. I know that I shall be contradicted in this statement, and many quotations from authors brought forward against me. I repeat, contrary to the assertions of many others, that no one has ever succeeded in domesticating our Wild Turkey; I speak not only from my own personal observations, but from the undivided testimony of many southern gentlemen. The Turkey of our own poultry yards, which when young is difficult to bring forward, it was thought might be obtained of a hardier race, by a new domestication; but every attempt has failed, nor can I find a single well-authenticated case of a mixed breed being obtained.

Descriptions of some new Reptiles, collected by the U. S. Exploring Expedition, under the command of Capt. Charles Wilkes, U. S. N.

THIRD PART.—Including the species of Ophidians, exotic to North America.

BY CHARLES GIRARD, M. D.

In the "Fauna Peruana" we find described, a species of worm-snake, Scoleco-phides, which, having teeth upon its lower jaw instead of the upper, belongs to the same group with *Catodon* and *Stenostoma*, and since it differs generically from both the genera just mentioned, we propose the new genus

SABRINA,

with the following diagnosis: Head depressed, subovoid. Rostral plate extending under the snout. One nasal and one frontonasal: nostril between them. A preocular or postnasal. A frontal. A postoculo-labial. A parietal and a post-parietal.

SABRINA TESSELLATA.—*Typhlops tessellatum*, Tsch. Faun. Peruan. Herp. 1845-46.  
Locality.—Coast of Peru.

To the family of *Calamariæ* we add the following species thus characterised:

RABDION OCCIPITALE.—Head very much depressed; eye large. Dorsal scales disposed upon fifteen longitudinal series. Ground color yellowish; scales margined with brown; beneath unicolor. Head and neck black with an occipital yellow spot.

Locality.—New Holland.

There is likewise a tree-snake, or Dendrophid, which is believed to be undescribed, and which we record under the name of

DENDROPHIS PRASINUS.—Its dorsal scales are very much emarginated posteriorly, and disposed upon thirteen longitudinal series. The preanal scutella is divided. Color uniformly green with a whitish line along the abdominal ridge.

Locality.—New Holland.

Amongst the true Colubrinæ we met with a new generic type somewhat related to *Rhinechis* and *Pituophis*, being characterised as follows:

1857.]

## CALLIRHINUS.

Head and body colubriform. Snout subconical, protruding beyond the lower jaws. Vertex plate elongated. Rostral convex. Two nasal plates with nostril between them. Two loreal plates. One anteorbital and two postorbitals. Third and fourth upper labials entering into the orbit. Scales moderate, smooth. Preanal scutella divided. Subcaudal scutellæ disposed upon a double series.

*CALLIRHINUS PATAGONIENSIS*,—is the only species that has, so far, come to our knowledge. The scales are disposed upon nineteen longitudinal series. The ground color is olivaceous, maculated with black.

*Locality*.—Coast of Patagonia.

Another genus of non-venomous serpents,

## CANTORIA,

is framed upon the following characters: Body subcylindrical, deeper than broad, and very much elongated. Tail moderate, thick upon its base and conical posteriorly. Head depressed, continuous with the body. Mouth moderate. Eye very small. An odd, narrow, prefrontal plate. Nasal plate unique (one right and one left), situated upon the upper surface of the head. One loreal. Orbital plates constituting a complete circle around the eye. Scales moderate, smooth, shining, disposed upon nineteen longitudinal series. Preanal scutella divided. Subcaudal scutellæ disposed upon a double series.

The typical species of this genus is *Coronella violacea*, CANTOR, Journ. Asiat. Soc. xvii. 1847, provided our determination be correct.

*Locality*.—A specimen of the above species was procured at Singapore.

Next in order is a species closely allied to its congeners, and which we propose thus to characterise:

*XENODON ANCORUS*.—Two anteorbital and two postorbital plates. Dorsal scales smooth, disposed upon seventeen longitudinal series. Brownish red above, with transverse blotches along the back and an anchor-shaped spot upon the head. Beneath unicolor.

Finally, we institute amongst venomous serpents, the genus

## DOLIOPHIS,

which may be recognised by a sub-cylindrical and very much elongated body; the tail being moderate. The head depressed, though continuous with the body. Mouth moderate, provided anteriorly with two fangs on either side. Cephalic plates normal. Two nasals, with nostrils between them. No loreal plate. One anteorbital. Third and fourth labials entering into the orbit. Two postorbitals. Scales smooth, shining, disposed upon thirteen longitudinal series. Preanal scutella entire. Subcaudal scutellæ disposed upon a double series.

*DOLIOPHIS FLAVICEPS*.—*Elaps flaviceps*, CANTOR, Journ. Asiat. Soc. xvii. 1847, is the only species so far known to us as belonging to this genus.

*Locality*.—Singapore.

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